



Indiana Rural Safety and Health Council

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2008 Agricultural Safety and Health Forum

The Indiana Rural Safety and Health Council in conjunction with Purdue University, Farm Bureau Insurance, Indiana Young Farmers, Indiana FFA, Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc., Statewide Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), and other farm organizations is planning a one-day forum to focus attention on issues relating to the safety and health of Indiana farm families. Topics relating to emergency response and rescue in agricultural workplaces will also be addressed, and three hours of in-service education units will be available for rescue personnel. The forum will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on September 10, 2008 at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center, 6595 S 125 W, Trafalgar, Indiana.

Agricultural production has historically been one of the state's most hazardous industries. Over the past ten years approximately 190 farm family members and farm workers have died as the result of farm work-related injuries. Each year nearly 1 out of every 9 farms experiences a work-related injury requiring medical attention. In 2007, that translated into nearly 6,900 injuries. These data do not include fatalities and injuries to farm family members and farm workers resulting from motor vehicle crashes, incidents in the home, or resulting from recreational activities on the farm such as those involving hunting, snowmobiles, ATV's, and swimming. The economic impact of work-related injuries and illnesses to farm families is considerable and is made every more stressful considering that many farm families have little or no health care or disability-related insurance coverage.

The forum will involve leadership from the agricultural community, safety professionals, farmers and research staff in the Purdue Agricultural Safety and Health Program. It is anticipated that participants will become better informed of agricultural-related safety and health concerns and be encouraged to become more involved in seeking appropriate solutions.

Concurrent programs will be conducted for adults and youth. Purdue staff will conduct a tractor and ATV safety program for youth ages 13-18 which will include instruction and hands-on tractor driving where the youth will operate a tractor through a standardized obstacle course.

The adult program will emphasize bull attacks, grain entrapment, and emergency preparedness, response, and rescue for incidents on farms. Tipmont REMC will also conduct a high-voltage power-line demonstration; the Purdue 2007 Indiana Farm Fatality Summary will be discussed; and exhibits will be available for viewing.

Farmers, ranchers, farm worker representatives, farm family members, leaders of agricultural organizations, public health professionals, agribusiness owners, insurance representatives, legislators, 4-H and FFA members, agricultural education students, emergency response personnel, and agricultural educators have been invited to participate. To make reservations to attend the forum, call 765-494-1191 or email field@purdue.edu. Lunch and handouts will be provided for those who pre-register. There is no cost for lunch or attendance if registration is received by August 29, 2008. For late or on-site registration a \$10.00 fee will be required.